

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20 FEA-02 AGR-20

DRC-01 INT-08 TRSE-00 /159 W
----- 051460

R 251235Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL BUKAVU
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
SECSTATE WASHDC 249
INFO AMCONSUL KISANGANI
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, EGEN, CG

SUBJECT: WEEKLY ECON REPORT-KIVU

REF BUKAVU 24

1. SHORTAGE OF FUELS BECOMING MORE CRITICAL THROUGHOUT REGION. MANY FACTORIES ON VERGE OF CLOSING. AT LEAST THREE TEA FACTORIES ALREADY CLOSED. IN GOMA, WHERE ELECTRICITY GENERATED BY FUEL, NO CURRENT BETWEEN ONE AND SIX PM WITH OTHER CUTS AT RANDOM NOT INFREQUENT. NATURALLY WRECKS HAVOC WITH ECONOMIC LIFE THERE.

2. COMM. OF SOUS REGION, NORTH KIVU, ENJONGA, PROFESSES OPTIMISM THAT FUEL SUPPLIES THERE WILL SOON BE NORMALIZED. HOWEVER, PALUKU OF TMK (REFTEL) STATES HE HAS TEN TANNTUCKS WAITING IN UGANDA BUT NO RPT NO ASSURANCE WHEN SUPPLIES WILL BE AVAILABLE THERE. FUEL BEING FLOWN IN FROM KINSHASA BY C-130 FOR A FEW PRIORITY GOVERNMENT PROJECTS.

3. DETAIL COMMENTS ON PROBABLE IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE IN NORTH KIVU
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OF NEW MEASURES FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. CONCENSUS IS THAT COFFEE

PRODUCTION UNLIKELY TO FALL SHARPLY SINCE 80 PERCENT ALREADY PRODUCED BY ZAIRIANS BUT QUALITY LIKELY TO DECLINE AS FERTILIZERS AND INSECTICIDES USED MORE SPARINGLY IF AT ALL. TEA PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO DROP SHARPLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUEL TO OPERATE FACTORIES. FEARS EXPRESSED THAT BREEDING CATTLE MAY BE KILLED FOR IMMEDIATE PROFITS THEREBY JEOPARDIZING FUTURE PRODUCTION. MOST FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN NORTH KIVU QUITE PESSIMISTIC AND ASSERT THAT ECONOMY WILL BE FLAT ON ITS FACE IN SIX MONTHS.

4. COMMENT: REGARDING FUEL, I CONTINUE TO WONDER IF KINSHASA AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF GRAVITY OF SITUATION KIVU IS FACING. LOVING

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